

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

**Please replace paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25 (page 24, line 23 to page 25, line 24), with the following rewritten paragraph:**

A1  
This digital color copy machine comprise a scanner 3001, a recognition unit 3002, a color conversion section 3003, a blacking processing section 3004, and a printer engine 3005. The basic operation of the digital color copy machine will be described. The scanner 3001 reads an image of a document to be copied, creates input image data corresponding to the read document image, and supplies an RGB signal 3006 indicating the read image to the recognition unit 3002. The recognition unit 3002 recognizes on the basis of the RGB signal 3006 whether or not the document image is a letter image or a photograph image. The recognition unit 3002 supplies the color ~~ever~~ conversion section 3003 with the RGB signal 3006, and also supplies the blacking processing section 3004 with a recognition signal 3007 indicating the image recognition result based on the signal 3006. The color conversion section 3003 converts the RGB signal 3006 into a CMY signal 3008 and supplies it to the blacking processing section 3004. The blacking processing section 3004 selects a black ratio for a letter image or for a photograph image on the basis of the recognition signal 3007. Specifically, the section 3004 selects a black ratio for a letter image when copying a letter image, and a black ratio for a photograph image when copying a photograph image. As a result, the blacking processing section 3004 converts the CYM signal 3008 into a C'M'Y'K' signal and supplies it to the printer engine 3005.

**Please replace paragraph bridging pages 28 and 29 (page 28, line 13 to page 29, line 9), with the following rewritten paragraph:**

A2  
Although in the third embodiment, the black ratio is changed, using a single blacking system, similar image quality improvement can be attained by

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using different blacking systems. Suppose, for example, that the blacking processing section 3004 executes blacking processing by selectively using two types of blacking systems (UCR and GCR), and that the switching of the blacking systems is based on a recognition signal output from the recognition unit 3002. If, for example, the recognition unit 3002 determines that an image corresponding to an image signal output from the scanner 3004 is a letter image, the blacking processing section 3004 executes blacking processing using UCR as the blacking system. If, on the other hand, it is determined that the image is a photograph image, the blacking processing section 3004 selects GCR as the blacking system and executes blacking processing. In other words, UCR GCR in which black is expressed using a single color (K) is employed in the case of a letter image, while GCR in which chroma is maintained is employed in the case of a photograph image. As a result, appropriate blacking processing is executed for each of a letter image and a photograph image, thereby improving image quality.

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